

FEB 1952

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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**INFORMATION REPORT**

REPORT NO.

25X1A

CD NO.

COUNTRY USSR

DATE DISTR. 11 July 1952

SUBJECT Soviet Marine Corps

NO. OF PAGES 3

DATE OF INFO.

NO. OF ENCLS. 3  
(LISTED BELOW)

25X1C  
PLACE  
ACQUIRED

SUPPLEMENT TO  
REPORT NO.

25X1X

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1.

only the following general details on the Soviet Marine Corps (Morskaya Pekhota):

a. In 1951 the naval forces of the Soviet Union were divided into the following five main categories:

- 1.) Line
- 2.) Aviation
- 3.) Engineering
- 4.) Coastal Defense
- 5.) Marine Corps

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- b. With the cessation of hostilities in 1945, the personnel strength of the Soviet Marine Corps was increased in proportion to the other services, which were being demobilized. The Marine Corps remained subordinate to Coastal Defense, although Marine units were not used to man coastal defense artillery installations. Marine units were stationed in most of the large port cities of the USSR and such a detachment (designation and size unknown) was located in Odessa.
- c. In Sevastopol there was an institute for training Marine officers in the techniques of landing operations. This institute, however, was not attended exclusively by officers of the Marine Corps.
- d. Normally the recruitment of personnel for the five main branches of the naval forces was done directly from civilian life. In general, it was not possible to be transferred from the Marine Corps to the other branches. Occasionally Marines were transferred to Coastal Defense.

Uniforms and Insignia

2. [redacted] in July 1951 and earlier, [redacted] a building in Astrakhan which was occupied by about 150 Soviet military enlisted personnel; about 100 of them belonged to the Marine Corps; the rest were sailors. The enlisted Marines were dressed in khaki Army field uniforms. They wore army garrison caps, with a red star but no piping or other insignia. Their shoulder boards were black and stiff, like those of the Army, and had the designation of rank, as well as the letter "Q" in gold. [See Encl (A), Sketches 1 and 2] There were no identifying insignia on the sleeves. The uniform buttons were those of the Army, with a star, not an anchor. The belt buckles, without insignia, were also of the Army type. [redacted]
3. Formerly, Soviet Marines wore an anchor on the outer end of the shoulder board but later the letter "Q" was substituted for it. This letter and the black shoulder boards were the only features which distinguished enlisted Marine personnel from enlisted Army personnel. The remaining 50 enlisted men [redacted] in that same building in Astrakhan wore the uniforms of enlisted Soviet naval personnel. The letters "RN" on their shoulder boards indicated that they were members of the Caspian Sea Flotilla.
4. [redacted] several officers who entered or left the building area without showing any identification documents. For this reason [redacted] they were stationed there. They wore Army uniforms with gold shoulder boards trimmed with red and additional red lines indicating their rank. [See Encl (A), Sketch 3] On the uniform and shoulder board buttons there was an Army star. [redacted] they were officers of the Marine Corps because they had direct access to the troop billets and were in daily contact with the enlisted Marine personnel. [redacted] there was no way of identifying an officer of the Marine Corps, dressed in the Army uniform, except by talking to the officer himself. In contrast, officers of the Coastal Defense wore naval uniforms. [redacted]

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5. The building occupied by the 150 Soviet naval personnel was a two-story, white stone structure, located on Sverdlova Ulitsa, approximately four blocks from the Volga River. There was no other naval installation nearby. The main entrance was guarded by sentries of the Marine Corps who were equipped with PPSh submachine guns when on duty. Marine officers who entered and left the building area carried pistols, [redacted] what purpose the building served nor what activities took place inside. /See Encl (B)/

25X1

Landing Barges

6. [redacted] 12 armored landing barges [redacted] 25X1X  
 25X1X the kind which are used for Soviet Marine Corps landing operations. They were on the Caspian Sea, heading south from Astrakhan in the direction of Baku. These barges were about 50 to 60 m long, nine to 10 m wide, and 1.5 to two m high from the waterline to the gunwale. In the forward end of the barges there was a drop-type ramp; 25X1X  
 25X1X aft, an armored pilot house. [redacted] 25X1X  
 [redacted] /See Encl (C)/

25X1A

25X1A [redacted] comment: [redacted] 25X1A  
 25X1A [redacted] was sure that the letter "A" on the enlisted shoulder boards designated the Marine Corps, it is the [redacted] opinion that it meant "unassigned". For this reason, the unidentified building may have been a school or a re-assignment installation.7

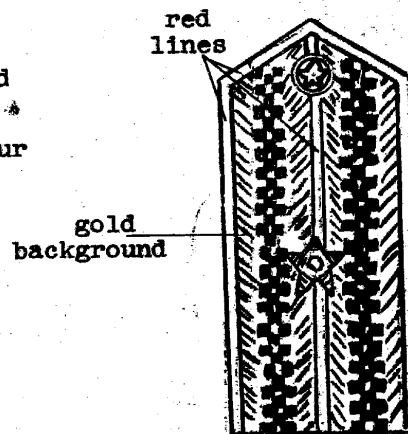
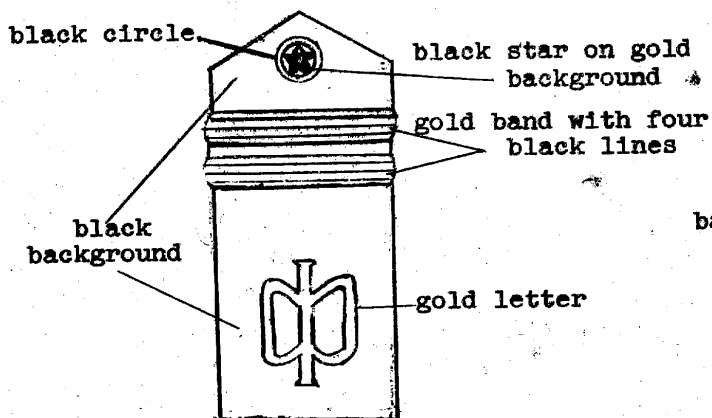
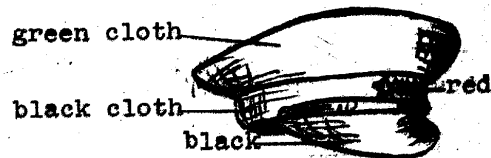
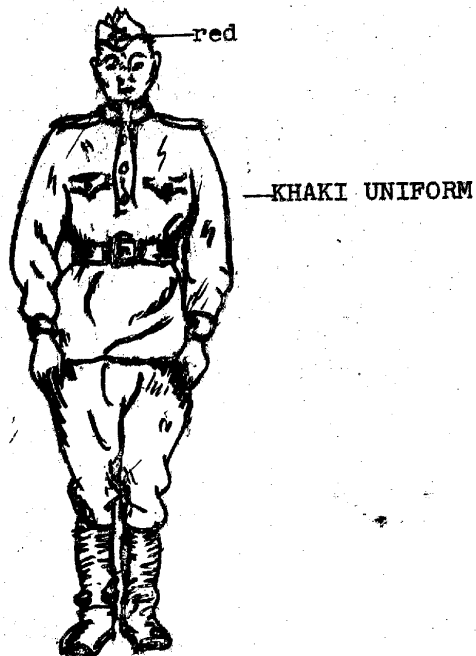
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Enclosures: (A) Uniform Sketches  
 (B) Building in Astrakhan  
 (C) Landing Barge

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ENCLOSURE (A)

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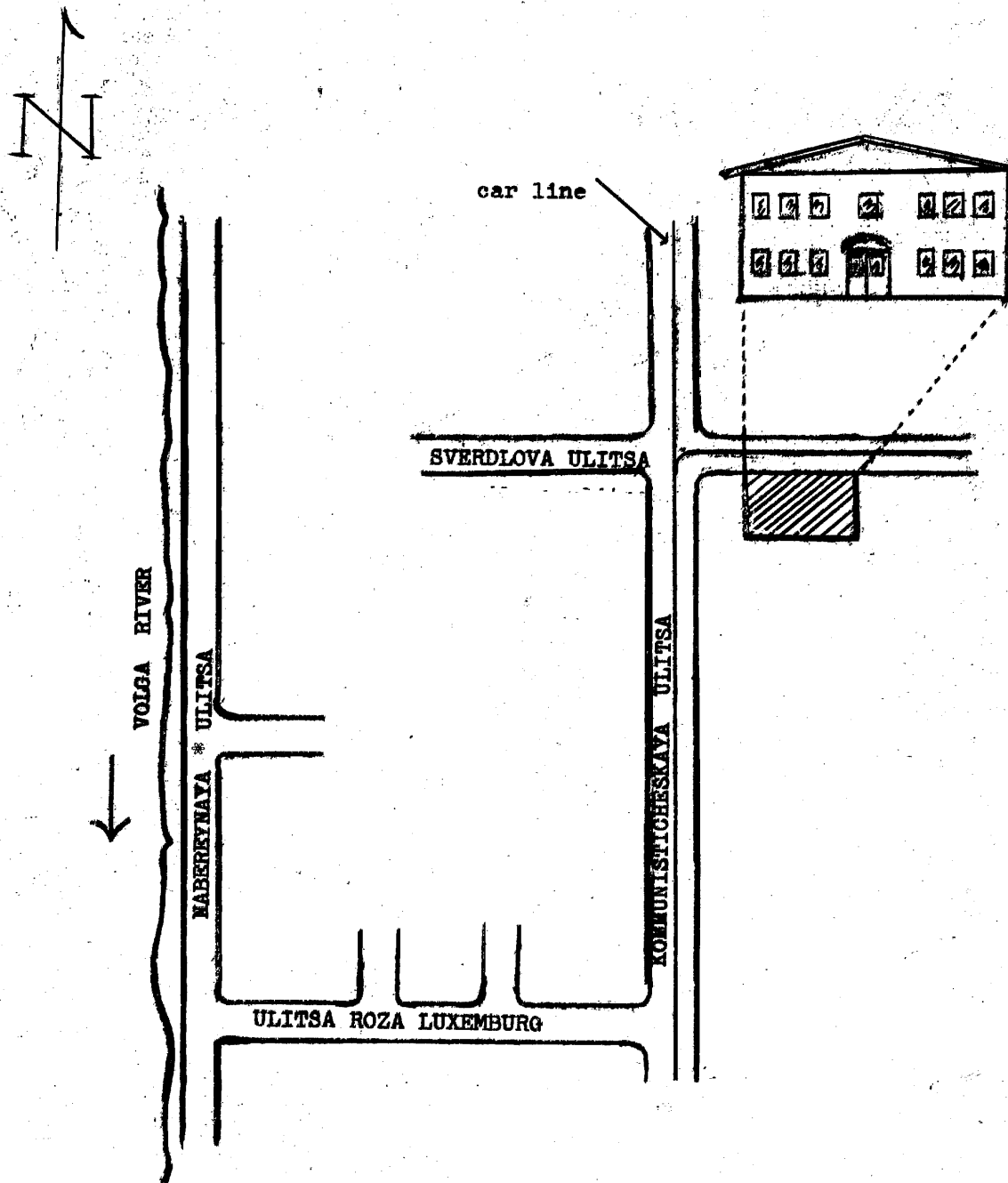
Uniform Sketches

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ENCLOSURE (B)

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25X1A



Building in Astrakhan

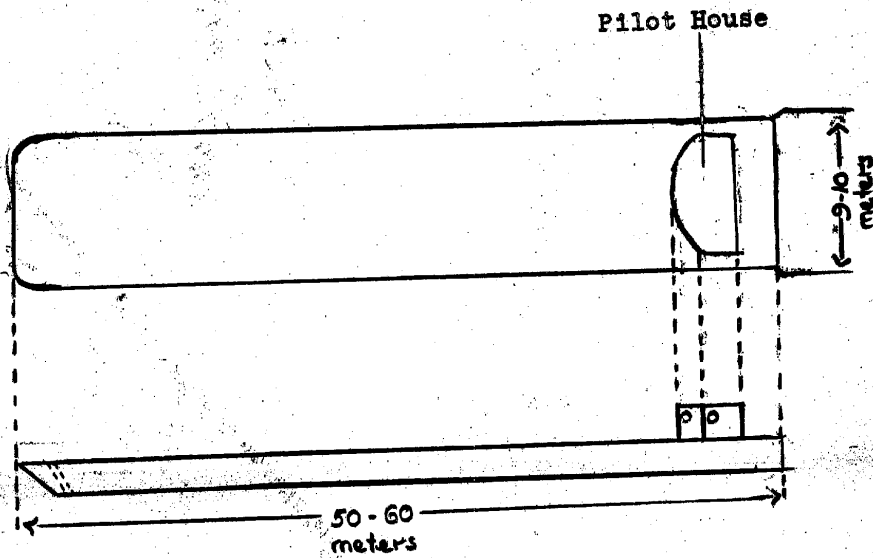
\* Sic; probably Naberezhnaya

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ENCLOSURE (C)

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Landing Barge

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